

## Message Text

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73

ORIGIN SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 L-02 SCA-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 /047 R

DRAFTED BY SCA/SCS/DPMATTHEWS/MRER

APPROVED BY SCA/SCS/JALIVORNESE

ARA/CAR-GPALAZZOLO (SUBS)

PA/FOI-BENNIS (SUBS)

L/SCA-EKERLEY (SUBS)

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P R 222142Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL CURACAO PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMCONSUL MARACAIBO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

COMCARIB SEAFRON ROOSEVELT RDS PR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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TAGS: BBAK, CGEN, EWWT, PN, NA

SUBJECT: YACHT APOLLO

REF: CURACAO 0207 NOTAL

1. REFTEL REPORTED ARRIVAL OF YACHT "APOLLO" IN NETHERLANDS ANTILLES AND MYSTERY SURROUNDING ITS ACTIVITIES. FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS FOR GUIDANCE OF POSTS IN EVENT VESSEL APPEARS IN OTHER PARTS OF CARIBBEAN.

2. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION IN DEPARTMENT'S FILES, "APOLLO" IS A 3,287 TON VESSEL WHICH CARRIES ABOUT 300 PEOPLE AND IS USED AS TRAINING SHIP BY RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION CALLED "CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY", FOUNDED IN LOS ANGELES BY SCIENCE FICTION WRITER L. RON HUBBARD. HUBBARD ALSO IS PRESIDENT OF OPERATION AND TRANSPORT CORP., LTD., PANAMANIAN COMPANY OWNING VESSEL.

3. SCIENTOLOGY PURPORTS TO BE RELIGIOUS PHILOSOPHY WHICH ENABLES AN INDIVIDUAL TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HIMSELF AND LIFE. BASICALLY, IT APPEARS TO BE A "DARE TO BE GREAT" TYPE OF SCHEME DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN AREAS IN WHICH AN INDIVIDUAL

MAY BE "WEAK", SUCH AS SELF-CONFIDENCE, PERCEPTION, INTERPERSONALRELATIONS, ETC. THIS IS ACCOMPLISHED IN A "CREDIT COURSE", TUITION RATES OF WHICH WERE DOLS 40,00 A CREDIT HOUR AT LAST REPORT. THE TOTAL COURSE CONSISTS OF APPROXIMATELY 100 CREDIT HOURS. ALTHOUGH THE PRECISE INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF THE SCIENTOLOGIST ORGANIZATION REMAINS UNDETERMINED, PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR ACTIVITIES ALLEGEDLY ARE CLOSELY SCRUTINIZED. THIS SURVEILLANCE MAY EXTEND TO MONITORING MEMBERS' MAIL, INCLUDING RECEIVING AND RESPONDING FOR THE ADDRESSEE, THERE ALSO HAVE BEEN CHARGES THAT MEMBERS ATTEMPTINGTO LEAVE THE ORGANIZATION HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO HARASSING TACTICS.

4. "CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY" WAS THE SUBJECT OF HIGH LEVEL GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND AUSTRALIA, WHICH RESULTED IN ITS PERMANENT EXCLUSION FROM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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THE STATEOF VICTORIA. SCIENTOLOGY AND FOUNDER, HUBBARD, ALSO WERE BANNED FROM ENGLAND, WHERE MINISTER OF HEALTH DECLARED IN PARLIAMENT IN 1968 THAT "SCIENTOLOGY IS SOCIALLY HARMFUL".

5. "APOLLO" WAS PURCHASED BY OTC IN 1969, AND SINCE THEN HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN VARIOUS PROBLEMS. WHEN "APOLLO" WAS DRY-DOCKED FOR REPAIRS IN SAFI, MOROCCO IN JULY 1971, AN AMERICAN CITIZEN ALLEGEDLY SHOT AND KILLED HERSELF ON BOARD. THE IRREGULAR MANNER OF REPORTING THE DEATH LED TO HER BURIAL BEFORE CONSULAR OFFICIALS HAD BEEN INFORMED. IN RESPONSE TO SUBSEQUENT EMBASSY CONTACTS ABOUT THE MATTER, OFFICIALS OF THE SHIP EVIDENCED DEEP CONCERN

OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION OF THE SHIP AND ITS ACTIVITIES. SHIP'S CAPTAIN, NORMAN F. STARKE, PREPARED LETTERS TO VARIOUS AGENCIES AND PERSONS IN THE UNITED STATES (INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT), ALLEGING THAT THE SAFETY OF THE VESSEL AND ITS CREW HAD BEEN THREATENED IN THE NAME OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT BY THE INVESTIGATING CONSULAR OFFICER, A CHARGE LATER SHOWN TO BE UNSUBSTANTIATED.

6. IN 1969, THE DECLARED FUNCTION OF THE "APOLLO" WAS FOR TRAINING ITS EMPLOYEES IN THE ART AND CULTURE OF NAVIGATION. TWO YEARS LATER, COMPANY BROCHURES INDICATED THAT SHIP WAS USED FOR BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND BUSINESS TRAINING PURPOSES.

7. RECENTLY A SEVENTY-EIGHT PAGE PUBLICATION ON "CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY" HAS COME TO OUR ATTENTION "PRINTED FOR THE USE OF U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND DIPLOMATIC SERVICES" AND PURPORTING TO BE PUBLISHED BY THE "U.S. MINISTRY OF PUBLIC RELATIONS". FROM ALL APPEARANCES DOCUMENT,

WHICH MAKES FAVORABLE PRESENTATION OF SCIENTOLOGY, IS A U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION; WHEREAS IT PRESUMABLY IS ACTUALLY PUBLISHED BY SCIENTOLOGISTS.

8. PRESENTLY SCIENTOLOGIST'S REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEEN REQUESTING ALL DEPARTMENT AND POST FILES ON SCIENTOLOGY OR VESSEL "APOLLO" UNDER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.  
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DEPARTMENT HAS RELEASED DOCUMENTS TO THEM, EXCEPT FOR CERTAIN ONES CONTAINING INFORMATION FROM CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES OR WHICH WOULD CONSTITUTE INVASION OF PRIVACY.

9. IN VIEW OF ABOVE, SUGGEST POSTS BE CAUTIOUS IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH APOLLO CREW MEMBERS AND CIRCUMSPECT IN ALL REPORTS SENT TO DEPARTMENT REGARDLESS OF CLASSIFICATION. REQUEST THAT POSTS BE ALERT TO REPORT ANY ACTIVITIES OF APOLLO THAT BEAR ON USG INTERESTS IN THEIR AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY. KISSINGER

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**Draft Date:** 22 APR 1975  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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BRIDGETOWN  
BOGOTA  
CARACAS  
COPENHAGEN  
GEORGETOWN

THE HAGUE  
KINGSTON  
MANAGUA  
MARTINIQUE  
MARACAIBO  
PANAMA  
PARAMARIBO  
PORT OF SPAIN  
PORT AU PRINCE  
SANTO DOMINGO  
TEGUCIGALPA  
COMCARIB SEAFRON ROOSEVELT RDS PR

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